

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a user-adapted multi-level digest stream, comprising:

searching user preference information having a user preference/non-preference level by categories for a multimedia stream; and

reconstructing a multi-level digest stream information ~~for~~ describing the multimedia stream as a user-adapted multi-level digest stream information, including changing an importance level of certain segments of the multi-level digest stream according to the user preference information using both the searched user preference information having the user preference/non-preference levels and a content-based data of the multimedia stream.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein a user-adapted multi-level digest stream information is dynamically provided according to the user preference information.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the content-based data is a description of information including characters, director, production company,

appearance/status of an audiovisual object, occurrence of an event, segment characteristics, audiovisual background, and segment information.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 3, wherein the user preference information is generated by data editing of the user.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the user preference information is generated by data editing of the user.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the multi-level digest stream information is formed as a multi-level digest segment information scheme containing the importance level of segments of the multimedia stream and the segment information.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, further comprising storing the user preference information, wherein the user preference information is stored in an external portable nonvolatile memory unit being a smart card, a nonvolatile memory unit of a predetermined server or a nonvolatile memory unit of a client device.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a user-adapted multi-level digest stream, comprising:

discriminating a user's digest stream request;

reading out preference information of the user;

readjusting and changing importance levels of information describing digest segments for a requested multi-level digest stream according to the read user preference information; and

providing the requested digest stream of a user-requested length using the readjusted digest segments information.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein among digest segments whose content-based data is consistent with the user preference information, the importance level of the digest segments preferred by the user is increased and the importance level of the digest segments non-preferred by the user is decreased by comparing the content-based data for the digest segment and the user preference information in the readjusting step.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein in the readjusting step, the importance levels are readjusted by adding or subtracting a predetermined weight value to preference levels of preferred or non-preferred categories.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the user preference information includes user preference/non-preference levels by multimedia categories.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for processing a multimedia stream, comprising:  
    setting preference/non-preference levels of user preference categories of a multimedia stream;  
    inputting a content-based data for the multimedia stream; and  
    generating a multi-level digest stream information for describing the multimedia stream based on the preference/non-preference levels and the content-based data of the multimedia stream, wherein importance levels of the multi-level digest stream information are changed based on the set preference/non-preference levels.
13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 12, comprising:  
    providing a user-adapted multi-level digest stream according to the generated multi-level digest stream information.
14. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein the user preference information is learned from a pattern of accessing to multimedia contents by the user.